



**Minute of Western Outcomes Group**  
**held on 24 April 2013**  
**Strabane Enterprise Agency**

**Present:**

Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women and Children's Services [Chair]  
 Mrs Kate McDaid, Assistant Director [Health Care]  
 Ms Maura Mason, Western Area Child Care Partnership  
 Ms Cathy Mullan, Public Health Agency  
 Ms Carina Boyle, Action for Children  
 Mrs Avril McAllister, NIHE  
 Ms Nicola Topping, Education Officer, WELB  
 Ms Colleen Heaney, Youth Justice Agency  
 Mr Donnie Sweeney, NIACRO  
 Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group  
 Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department of Social Development  
 Ms Helen Harley, Children & Young People's Officer, Derry City Council  
 Mrs Una Geelan, Business Support Manager, HSCB  
 Mrs Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer, HSCB  
 Mr Gerry Conway, Commissioning Lead, HSCB

**In attendance:**

Ms Priscilla Magee, Action for Children  
 Ms Bronagh Donnelly, Action for Children  
 Mrs Anne Donaghey, Business Manager  
 Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Ms Deirdre Mahon, Assistant Director [Family and Child Care]          Ms Maeve Linton, SureStart Manager          Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid          Mr Barny Heywood, Omagh District Council          Mr Paul Laughlin, Department of Social Development</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>All present confirmed that they had received a copy of the notes of the previous meeting held on 11 December 2012 and that they were an accurate reflection of the</p>

	discussion that had taken place.
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Links to Regional Sub Groups</b>  Mr Downey reported that there were a range of regional sub groups [Early Intervention, Young Carers, Hidden Harm, Children and Young People with Disabilities etc]. He said that at a meeting of the Chairs of the Outcomes Groups discussion took place regarding inviting Sub Group Chairs, or local members of the group, to an Outcomes Group meeting to enhance linkages and to allow opportunities to discuss key themes. He reported that the CYPSP were looking at alternative ways of future working. Mr Downey to take forward.</p> <p><b>Presentation on Family Support Hubs – June Meeting</b>  Mr Downey advised that he had invited Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service [Fostering &amp; Adoption, Early Years and Family Support], to deliver a presentation on Family Support Hubs at the next meeting on 19 June 2013. He reported that work was continuing to bring the Omagh Hub up to the same operational level as the Derry Hub.</p> <p><b>Funding</b>  Mr Conway advised that this forum was an opportunity to share information on funding programmes and developments in services for children and young people throughout the Western area. He said he was concerned that there was almost a disconnection between funding streams e.g., SIF funding. He stated that the Western Outcomes Group needed to influence and shape future proposals.</p> <p>Mr Downey reported that a proforma was being designed for organisations to record the outcomes achieved for children and young people based on the funding awarded by the Western Outcomes Group. He advised that the proforma would be shared with members and then forwarded to all groups in receipt of funding to complete.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Community Family Support Programme – Pilot in Strabane</b>  Mr Downey advised that a presentation had been delivered at the previous meeting of Outcomes Chairs and Regional Outcomes Chairs on the Community Family Support Programme, an initiative by the Department for Employment and Learning, which is currently being piloted in Strabane. The pilot is being delivered to 44 disadvantaged families over a 26 week period in Belfast, Strabane, Cookstown and Newtownabbey. It is planned that the programme will support over 500 families when it is rolled out across the five Trust areas from September 2013 – March 2015, with a budget of £4M.</p> <p>Mr Downey expressed his concern at the disconnection at government level regarding the implementation of the programme, as Trusts had not been involved at the design or implementation of the project, and funding had not been routed via the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership. He undertook to raise this issue</p>

	<p>at the DHSSPS. Mrs Hardy requested members to forward her any information on the programme, which she agreed to share with Mr Leeson, Professional Advisor for Children’s Services Planning, HSCB.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that some families involved in the pilot may already be known to the Trust, but were concerned that the programme did not connect to some of the interventions currently being offered.</p> <p>Mr O’Kane said that a precedent was being created by offering £3,000 to people who completed the programme and asked if there was any evidence to substantiate the benefits of offering financial incentives. He reported that the Strengthening Families Programme, where attendance was on a voluntary basis, had a 95% attendance rate, and the programme was well evaluated.</p> <p>Mr Downey agreed to keep members apprised of developments.</p>
	<p>Mr Downey welcomed Ms Maria Herron, Parenting NI, to the meeting and confirmed that he had forwarded members the following two papers from Ms Herron:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Report on Fourth Meeting of the Western Parents Reference Group.</li> <li>➤ Proposed Tasks for Western Parents Reference Group.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Downey said the Western Outcomes Group had reaffirmed links with Parenting NI at the successful development day on 27 February 2013 and thanked Ms Herron for the insightful and useful comments provided by parents in relation to the key indicators which were detailed in the above report from the group.</p> <p>Ms Herron requested the Western Outcomes Group to identify future tasks for the WPRG to give the group focus for the year ahead. Mr Conway said the Western Outcomes Group needed to be clear as to what tasks they could ask the WPRG to undertake to ensure that the group was not overloaded. Discussion took place on possible future tasks for the group.</p> <p>Mr Downey agreed to attend the next meeting of the Western Parents Reference Group. Mrs Hardy suggested that a representative from the Locality Planning Groups should also attend. Mr Downey said he would take the opportunity to raise awareness of the Children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy and would consult with the group in the future regarding Transforming Your Care.</p> <p>Ms Herron withdrew from the meeting.</p>
4	<p><b>Updates from Locality Planning Groups</b></p> <p>Mr Downey noted that update reports from the Locality Planning Groups were very informative and allowed a connection between the Locality Planning Groups and the Western Outcomes Group. Members endorsed the valuable resource of the Locality Planning Groups within the Western area.</p>

	<p>Mr Conway suggested that it may be beneficial to invite representatives from the Locality Planning Groups to a future meeting to allow an opportunity to present their issues to ensure that there was no dislocation and to ensure strategic alignment. Mrs Hardy noted that the forthcoming stakeholder events would be an opportunity for joint working.</p> <p>Mrs MacIntyre expressed concern for children and vulnerable families when funding for successful projects ceased.</p> <p>Mr Downey stressed the importance of all funding streams being routed via the Western Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mrs Hardy agreed to prepare a draft programme for the local stakeholder events and said these would ensure a connection with people in the local areas and the Locality Planning Groups.</p> <p>Ms Harley proposed that the stakeholder events should be child focused.</p> <p>It was agreed that “Updates from Locality Planning Groups” would remain a standing item on future agendas to keep members apprised of developments.</p>
5	<p><b>Workshop Report – Actions to take forward</b></p> <p>Mr Downey reported that he had thanked Mr Eamon McTernan, on behalf of members, for facilitating the development day on 27 February 2013.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Mr Downey reported that he was meeting Chief Superintendent Cargin on 29 April 2013 and advised that he would take the opportunity to discuss representation from the PSNI on the Western Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mrs McIntyre advised that she would be moving to a post in the Omagh locality, but said would be happy to represent DSD on the Western Outcomes Group.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Events</b></p> <p>It was agreed that five stakeholder events to demonstrate the role and work of the group to voluntary sector agencies and community networks would be planned for Omagh, Fermanagh, Derry, Strabane and Limavady.</p> <p><b>Vice-Chair</b></p> <p>It was agreed that representatives from voluntary and community groups would decide on a Vice-Chair and confirm a nomination at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Rotation of Venues for Meetings</b></p> <p>Ms Harley undertook to check availability of a Council venue for the next meeting. It was agreed that Ms Harley and Mrs Donnelly would give an overview of the Early Intervention Strategic Partnership as it continues to work towards establishing Derry</p>

	<p>as an Intervention City, and an update on SIF, at the June meeting.</p> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>Mrs Hardy reported that there may be the possibility of additional funding along with the £100,000 recurrent funding for 2013/14 and agreed to keep Mr Downey apprised of the final allocation which would be transferred to the Trust. She said it was important for the group to identify what outcomes would be expected from this funding. Members agreed that other possible funding sources would need to be included.</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that there was .5 WTE support post available within the Western Trust to assist with procurement, as this was a protracted process.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following members would chair three sub groups to identify outcomes:-</p> <p>Theme One – Mr Conway  Theme Two – Ms Topping  Theme Three – Ms Heaney</p> <p>Members to approach the Chairs if they wish to become involved. Mrs Hardy and Mrs Donaghey to meet with the three Chairs. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
7	<p><b>Locality Outcome Monitoring 2006 – 2012</b></p> <p>Mr Downey said that the Locality Outcome Monitoring report for 2006 – 2012 was a rich source of data which detailed indicators down to ward level. He noted that the report highlighted some worrying outcomes for the Western area and said there was a need to dissect information into a summarised format. Mrs Hardy advised that Mrs Geelan and Mrs Maxwell would begin to take this forward. It was agreed that Mrs Geelan, Mrs McDaid, Ms Mason, Mrs Magee and Mrs Donnelly would review the qualitative information.</p> <p>Mrs Hardy advised that Mrs Geelan was leading on a review of Outcomes Groups action plans to ensure a synchronised planning cycle for all groups.</p>
8	<p><b>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group</b></p> <p>Mr Conway advised of funding for a Divert programme in the northern sector of the Trust. He also said that the Arc Healthy Living Centre in Irvinestown were running an extensive drug and alcohol programme since 1 April 2013. Mr Conway acknowledged that funding was limited in respect of drug and alcohol projects. He said there was a need to look at training needs and reported that the PHA were looking at a new strategic direction in relation to drugs and alcohol issues and that this needed to be embedded within contracts.</p> <p>It was agreed that this would remain as a standing agenda item.</p>

9	<p><b>Western Trust/Live Unltd Grant Scheme</b>  Mr Downey advised that the Western Trust, in partnership Live Unltd, had launched a competition for 11 - 21 year olds to design a project that would address a health issue in their community. Application forms and background information had already been emailed in advance of today's meeting and Mr Downey requested members to disseminate within their organisations.</p>
10	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Western Area Child Care Partnership Newsletter</b>  Copies of the Western Area Child Care Partnership newsletter were distributed to members and Mr Downey commended Ms Mason on the publication.</p> <p><b>“Now You're Talking”</b>  Mr Conway advised of a number of local events planned for the City of Culture 2013 in respect of speech, language and communication development for young children. A regional conference was also scheduled for 24 October 2013 at the Everglades Hotel. He reported that the Child Care Partnership were looking at developing capacity for training for staff and the identification of emerging issues and deficits.</p> <p><b>Robin Balbernie Event</b>  Ms Mason advised of an event on 10 May 2013 [am] in the Everglades Hotel where Robin Balbernie would be attending to discuss early brain development.</p> <p><b>Funding – Public Health Agency</b>  Ms Mullan advised of £2M regional funding towards Incredible Year, Infant Mental Health, Strengthening Families etc. She said that an additional bid for a range of therapies for children and young people had also been submitted and she agreed to keep members apprised of progress.</p>
11	<p><b>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</b>  19 June 2013 at 10.00 am. Ms Harley agreed to arrange a venue.</p>